New Goal for Coal - SPRU Report Targets Emissions

The Government must do more to support cleaner technologies if it wants to secure the future of the UK coal industry. This is the main message of a new report, Cleaning Up Coal's Act, published today (4 December) by SPRU.

The SPRU report was commissioned following a request from John Battle MP, the Minister for Energy and Industry, for new policy ideas to clean up the use of coal by electricity generators. He is now considering the report's call for a small levy on electricity bills to finance a new generation of 'clean coal' power stations.

Despite the Government's recent intervention to stem the decline of the UK coal industry, coal still faces the twin threats of environmental legislation and the rise of gas. October's White Paper confirmed Government action to restrict gas use in power plants. The SPRU report shows that 'clean coal' technologies could help meet the environmental challenge. These technologies offer a substantial reduction in emissions at reasonable cost. However, it is clear that power companies will require financial assurances before they are willing to build plants in the UK.

Dr. Jim Watson, the author of the SPRU Report, said: 'The Government has gone to a lot of trouble during the past year to protect the market for coal. However, the current ban on new gas-fired power stations and efforts to reform the electricity market will be futile unless there is investment in cleaner coal technologies'.

The report argues that the best way of supporting the deployment of clean coal technologies in the UK would be to follow the successful method used for renewable technologies, and collect a levy from consumers' electricity bills. Levy revenue would be used to bridge the gap between the costs of producing electricity from clean coal power stations and the market price of electricity. The huge costs other countries have incurred in supporting 'clean coal' by direct subsidy suggest that this market-based solution would be the most cost-effective way of addressing coal's problems.

The SPRU report shows that the annual costs of a 15 year Clean Coal Levy will depend on a number of factors, primarily the market price for electricity and the construction costs of the new stations. A central estimate suggests a cost of £100 million per year (or 1% of final electricity bills) to switch 1.5% of the UK's generation capacity (1000 Megawatts) from traditional coal to 'clean coal'.

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The Wind In The Willows

Mr Toad and his chums return to the Gardner Arts Centre this year for their Christmas show. Running from 9 December to 2 January the show is full of familiar faces that will delight the parents just as much as the youngsters. Tickets start at £6,95 and can be purchased in person or by calling the box office on 01273 685861

Mystery of 'Princess' Painting revealed

Thanks to the Bulletin, the University now knows the history of the painting And She Was The Princess by John Upton. In May this year we published an item on the painting (pictured right) explaining that no one knew its history as it was not on the inventory of University-owned art. Well, we can now update you. Several people contacted Simon Lane, who is compiling the inventory, to explain that the picture was painted in 1969 and sold to Keith Oatley who was then in BIOLS. He decided not to take the picture with him when he left for Edinburgh 12 years ago, and left it on permanent loan to the University. The picture is of John Upton's children but they are not all girls - the one at the back is his son Earl. The person bending over John thinks is supposed to be him, but he can't quite remember!
Camera, Light up, Action
Media Studies students make community anti-smoking video

A group of second year students have collaborated with the Brighton and Hove community health team to produce a video which explores the dangers of smoking. Attempting to avoid the preachy tones of many anti-smoking videos, the students - Carolyn Mathieu, Gabbie Kaplanoca-Incalza, Paul Angell and Pirita Mayra - aimed for unpatronising, debate-style footage. The video was shot around Portslade Youth Centre, and featured young people discussing the dangerous implications of smoking. Not only were they encouraged to think about health risks to themselves, they were also told about the exploitative use of tobacco as a cash crop in developing countries. The 16 to 19 year old group were all smokers, except for one girl who stopped when she became pregnant.

Indeed, the video has already helped one young person - Paul Angell, one of the students who helped film it. Paul, who was a "full on 20 a day chimney machine," realised the error of his ways and also gave up whilst filming the discussions.

All four students were inspired to make the video after a course in production they took together, taught by Ken Whittington. Ken galvanised the students into action in more ways than one, as Paul pointed out - "Ken really came up with more than his fair share of ideas - we couldn't have done it without him."

The students, who started filming in the summer term, were involved mainly in the production side of the film which is being condensed into a ten minute video to be distributed as a teaching aid. As Carolyn Mathieu points out - "most kids are sick of having the same information about smoking rammed down their throats. We wanted to do something that wasn't patronising, something new." The students have been approached to make another community video, possibly about drugs. As Carolyn jokes, "soon there'll be a whole box set!"

Clean Coal
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A new 'clean coal' subsidy could help the UK to meet its post-Kyoto obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 1000 Megawatts of 'clean coal' plant would cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 1%, through the replacement of existing coal-fired power stations. This saving represents a substantial contribution to the UK's overall target of a 12.5% cut from 1990 levels.

More strategically, the SPRU report advocates the integration of support for 'clean coal' with the current subsidy scheme for renewable energy and any new initiatives to fund energy efficiency programmes. A new Sustainable Energy Levy would provide the Government with a flexible tool to help meet its primary objective of secure, diverse and sustainable energy supplies at competitive prices, as well as its international obligations.

New Computing Service PC Cluster

An additional cluster of Computing Service PCs is now available in the Library. These 24 PCs run a full range of Microsoft Windows NT software (word processing, e-mail, web browsing, etc) and are located on the second floor by the main staircase. This cluster is the next stage in the transfer of the Computing Service's PC service from Windows 3.1 to the new Windows NT student desktop, that began with the cluster of 120 PCs opened in Pevensey 1 at the beginning of term. A trial printing service is now available in Pevensey. This has been a success especially with those students who have their own PC equipped with Windows 95.

Can we remind teaching faculty that two of the NT clusters in Pevensey (rooms 1B2 and 1B5) will be available for teaching from the Spring Term. These rooms can be reserved through Room Bookings.

Junk Email

If you have a telephone someone will ring you uninvited and try to sell you double glazing; if you have a letterbox people will put unwanted circulars through it and if you have an email address you will receive unwanted email. The best way to deal with most unwanted email is (1) delete it and (2) forget it. If you find anything exceptionally distasteful please send it to the Computing Service where it will be dealt with (forward it to support@sussex.ac.uk).

The deliberate use of University computing facilities for private commercial gain, or to harass, annoy or abuse others is against University Regulations (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/secretariat/compregs/) but inappropriate responses from the innocent recipients of junk mail sometimes create the biggest problems.

Attempts to remonstrate with the sender often make situations worse. Recent attempts to send complaints to the one originator of a particular email resulted in messages going to nearly 3,000 people who had nothing to do with the sender. Their complaints about the wrongly directed complaints and the replies to them caused an explosive growth of nuisance mail. The senders of junk mail often disguise themselves, and any complaints that you send may do nothing but cause inconvenience to innocent third parties.

The University computing system automatically detects and rejects some junk mail, and it will be constantly updated to keep the problem under control as far as possible, but some junk mail will always find a way through. If you receive any, then either delete it or report it to the Computing Service. Any other response may be a recipe for disaster.

High Flyers Join Our Club

Last week saw the launch of The Innovation Club, an initiative brought together by those innovative people at SPRU. In conjunction with CENTRIM at the University of Brighton and the Management School of Imperial College, SPRU has established the Club with the aim of bringing businesses with an interest in innovation into contact with academics on the cutting edge of business and technology research.

The launch was attended by representatives of several major blue chip companies. Funded to the tune of £50,000 by the EPSRC, the Club will encourage a symbiosis between businesses and researchers which promises to be extremely fruitful. Joining the Club will provide members with the opportunity to take part in on-site workshops with the companies involved, attend meetings with high profile key-note speakers, and receive publications which will feature the latest news on innovation management. There will also be a chance to feature in some of the most high profile, cutting edge research in the country. It sounds like a club everyone will want to join.
Mirror Man Scoops Medal

Congratulations to Carlos Saba, who has just been awarded the prestigious Cavendish Medal for Young Researchers. Carlos, a postgraduate student in the Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics was awarded the medal after giving a talk on magnetic mirrors for atoms at the Highlights of Physics Research and R & D by Young Physicists. The purpose of this annual meeting, which was held at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, is to promote interaction and communication between younger physicists from the UK and Europe. The Cavendish Medal is awarded for "a most outstanding piece of research and R & D by a younger physicist."

Christmas in the Refectory

Essential maintenance works are due to take place in the Refectory kitchen from the afternoon of Wednesday 16 December 1998. As a consequence, The Laines and Downs Restaurants will close after lunch service on the 16 and re-open on Monday 4 January 1999. Food deliveries to individual customers and other catering units will also cease at this time. Throughout this period, until the Christmas closure, the Refectory Coffee Shop, Baguette Express, Library Bookshop and Sussex Tea Bar will open as usual, or as advertised. The Pitstop Take-away will also open lunchtimes during this period. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our customers.

Christmas Lunches in the Refectory Restaurants:

- Laines Restaurant - Tuesday, 8 Dec
- Downs Restaurant - Tuesday, 15 Dec

Menu: Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Bacon Roll, Bread Sauce; Roast Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts and Bacon Carrots £3.75

Home-made Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce - 75p per portion OR £4.00 for both Courses.

A River Runs Through Memories

On Sunday 22 November, 60 people enjoyed a buffet lunch in Iford Village Hall to celebrate the first year of the Ouse Valley Project. The Project is a partnership between the Environment Agency and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board which aims to conserve and enhance the nature conservation, landscape and amenity value of the valley of the River Ouse, which stretches from the Sussex High Weald down to Newhaven on the coast. Project Officer, Jason Lavender wanted to record some of the stories about life in the valley that he was hearing from members of the local farming communities. He approached Al Thomson in the Centre for Continuing Education and they set up the Ouse Valley Oral History Project in which Sussex students taking oral history courses develop their interview skills by recording the life histories of men and women who have lived and worked in the valley from the beginning of the century.

"I had to walk four-and-a-half miles to school. You had a few sandwiches on your back. I've joked about it. Gone home from milking, pumped cold water out of the well, whilst you're getting into some different clothes 'cause you're all stinky, cow clothes. Snotty nose, a bit of bread and jam and run all the way to school .... Because that was the back end of the 1914-18 war .... My life consisted of milking and going to school." (Fred Mudland, Iford).

The exhibition of photos and extracts from the interviews vividly illustrated the value of the Ouse Valley Oral History Project and can be seen in the foyer of EDB over the next couple of weeks. The Project will continue for at least another two years and the tapes will form an archive of twentieth-century Sussex rural life. In time, Sussex students will develop new skills as they craft the interviews into a book, radio programme or multimedia project. For further details contact Al Thomson in CCE, email a.s.thomson@sussex.ac.uk, ext 3585.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFLIND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Unib/SResearch or LISIS Home Page, under Research.

The EPSRC invites proposals for "Multi-Project Research Equipment". Proposals that involve multi-departmental or multi-institutional collaboration, or which address research problems of interest to more than one of the EPSRC Programme areas are particularly encouraged. Funds range from £25,000 - £2 million depending on the proposal. This is an on-going project - the next batch date for applications is Feb 1999.

Submissions for the St Andrews Prize are now invited, the winner receiving cash prize of £25,000. Entries of no more than 3,000 words on the urban environment are required by 31 Jan 1999.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation invites proposals under the heading "Work and Family Life." This second call focuses on the partnership between the community and employers & work. First deadline for proposals is 6 Jan 1999; indicate interest by 18 Dec 1998.

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art invites applications for doctoral and post doctoral fellowships with the aim being to publish a doctorate/manuscript. Deadline: 15 Jan 1999.


The EPSRC/NERC joint programme in Waste and Pollution Management have issued a fourth call for proposals. Research themes: risk-based management of contaminated land; landfill stabilisation; waste composition and properties; containment systems; environmental impacts (list not complete). Feasibility studies should be limited to 12 months and £50,000. Deadline: 14 Jan 1999.

The EPSRC invites research proposals under the title "Distributed Information Management." Objective: to stimulate research into the development and management of complex distributed information systems concerned with the understanding, collation and processing of large volumes of multimedia information from diverse sources. Deadline: 1 March 1999.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 7 December

1.00 pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Alastair Goode, The role of recollection and familiarity in the effectiveness of advertising. BLR.

2.00 pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: Greg Kent, Media representation and the Croatian and Bosnian conflicts. D310.

4.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: I Goldshlief (Queen Mary), Schoedinger operators with random potentials: history and new developments. 2A2 PEVI.

4.00 pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Sara Arber (Surrey), Gender and Generation: Inequalities in Health across the Life Course. D310.

4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar: Danny Osario, Colour Vision in Birds. BLR.

Tuesday 8 December
1.00 pm IDS Environment Group Seminar: Brian Wynne & Robin Grove White, Scientific indeterminacy and policy deliberation. IDS 121.

2.00 pm Sussex European Institute Seminar: Allan Williams (Exeter), The economic implications of privatisation in Slovakia and the Czech Republic: tourism, a neglected ‘leading’ sector? A71, SEI.

4.30 pm Social and Political Thought: Troubleshooting session. D630.

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Charles Lees, What is the Berlin Republic? A155.

Wednesday 9 December
12.30 pm Environmental Science Seminar: Jane Haviland, Corporate Environmental Management. 3R241/MS3 Chichester.

3.00 pm Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Artur Ekert (Oxford), Quantum Computation: from theory to experiments. PEV2A2.


Thursday 10 December
5.00 pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Dick Roberts, “Makes you realise what God would have done if he had the money”: James Thurbur on the Ten Commandments, History, Heritage, Cinema. A155.

Friday 11 December
2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: Erik Arnold & Ben Thoruax, Technopolis, Brighton, No Free Lunch - Funding Basic Research in Ireland. EDB Lecture Room.

4.00 pm Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar: David Dritschel (St Andrew’s), On the isotropy of rotating, stably stratified turbulence. PEV-2B13, PEV1.

4.00 pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Rossana Wright, High resolution spectrometry of free radicals. CHI-3R241 (MS3).

4.00 pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: RAS Meeting. Arundel 401.

Miscellaneous

Sussex Language Institute are holding language courses after Christmas in
• Latin for special purposes
• German and Spanish Beginners
• French Elementary
• Short courses in Russian, Japanese and Italian.

If you are interested in Polish, Arabic or any other language please let us know. Contact the Open Course Assistant on 678006, ext 2016.

There is now a Study Skills web site under construction linked to the Language Centre Home page. It can be accessed from the main Language Centre Menu. Several web pages are accessible already through the existing Study Skills menu and more will follow in the New Year, together with additions, links and any necessary changes to the existing pages. Comments are most welcome. Doreen du Boulay. (D.Du-Boulay@sussex.ac.uk /3823/B136)

Music Events on Campus -
7 December - Sussex University Chamber Choir lunchtime recital- madrigals and Christmas pieces from around Europe. Meeting House, 1.20pm, Free Admission.

7 & 8 December - Wild Life: a short, contemporary musical by Hannah Baxter and John Neal. 7.30 pm, Hothouse. £2.

9 December - Sussex University Philharmonia playing Prokofiev, Sibelius and Brahms. 8.00 pm, Meeting House, £5/£3.50/£3.

10 December - Composers’ Concert. 1.15pm, Recital Room, Free Admission.

Small Ads

Small Ads are placed free of charge. We will always try to display them in the earliest edition but cannot guarantee this - 20 words or less please.

WANTED: Furnished accom., in/around Brighton for PhD student female, n/s, quiet atmosphere essential. Pref own kitchenette/ cooking facilities, bath-WC. Max. rent £300 pcm. Email nanettehale@email.dk or phone +45 3918 3632 - (reverse charges, if nec.)

FOR SALE: Electra Fan Heater, almost new - £15. BT DF-100 Fax machine with ‘phone and copier, with manual - £100. TV Aerial, Labgear teletop “Alpha” Good shape - £5. Answercall Dash telephone - £4, another telephone - £3 or very near offer for each. Contact on 246225 (on campus).

TO LET: Room in centrally located house in Hanover. GCH and garden. £52 incl. Tel 701553.

FOR SALE: Pushchair/pram. Silver Cross Wayfairer, plus sun/rain covers, costcoes; good condition, £110. Call 472333 or email J.A.Carroll@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: 2/3 bedroom flat in Brighton for male postgrad student at CulCom. Call ext 7196 or e-mail M.V.Merliuto@sussex.ac.uk.

FLAT SHARE: Warm, spacious furnished 2-bedroom flat in central Brighton with easy access to campus. Kitchen, living/dining room, shower, wc, basin in bedroom; GCH, W/M, telephone. Available now. £200 per month plus bills. Female non-smoker preferred, to share with similar postgraduate. Call 621773 or 620207 or ext 8731.

FOR SALE: Mountain bike, ladies GT Outpost Trail, 21 speeds, V brakes, 1998, 30 miles old, perfect, but owner has renounced cycling, £150 (£230 new), 475933.

WANTED: 2/3 bedroomed property to let from 25th January for new lecturer, wife and daughter. Contact David at D.Budgett@aucland.ac.nz.


TO LET: 3 bedroomed villa in Spain on hillside overlooking sea on quiet section of the Costa del Sol. 30 mins east of Malaga Airport. £100-£200 p/w according to season. Contact Tricia Grassie on ext. 8305 or 472831.


FOR SALE: Laptop Pentium Hitachi Colour, TFT Built in CD ROM, speaker, mike, soundcard, mouse, 2.1 GB Harddisk, Win 98, Office 97, lots more, bargain! Only £675 ono. Tel 271933.

WANTED: Visiting lecturer (female) is looking for a one-bedroom or studio flat for the month of January. Please email sapd7@sussex.ac.uk or phone 01224 638696.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.